

## Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 DOTE-00 EB-07 FAA-00 IO-13 SCCT-01

SY-05 USSS-00 /096 W

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R 081130Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5207

INFO USUN NEW YORK 489

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFRO, CE

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON ISRAELI ATTACK ON  
ENTEBBE AIRPORT

REF: COLOMBO 2411

1. PRIME MINISTER SIRIMAVO BANDRRANAIKE JULY 7 ISSUED  
A STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON ENTEBBE  
AIRPORT AND RECALLING SRI LANKA'S COMMITMENT TO THE ARAB  
CAUSE AND THE "NATIONAL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."  
HER STATEMENT FOLLOWED BY ONE DAY SIMILAR BUT SOMEWHAT  
MILDER CONDEMNATION BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY (REFTEL).

2. TEXT OXAPM'S STATEMENT IS: QUOTE: THE GOVERNMENT OF  
SRI LANKA EXPRESSES ITS CONDEMNATION OF THE ATTACK BY  
ISRAELI MILITARY FORCES ON ENTEBEE AIRPORT IN UGANDA. IT  
CONSIDERS THE ATTACK AN ACT OF AGRESSION AND A FLAGRANT  
VIOLATION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF UGANDA AND OTHER

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NEIGHBOURING STATES AS WELL AS A CONTRAVENTION OF THE

NORMS OF CONDUCT BETWEEN NATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT FULLY ENDORSES THE POSITION TAKEN ON THIS MATTER BY AND EXPRESSES ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE SUMMIT CONCERNCE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY. THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED THE CAUSE OF THE ARABS AND THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALAGTINE PEOPLE. IT WILL RESOLUTELY CONTINUE TO DO SO. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT WHEN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE IN 1970, ONE OF ITS FIRST ACTS WAS TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. THE GOVERNMENT WISHES TO MAKE IT CLEAR AT THE SAME TIME THAT IT CONDEMNS ACTS OF AIR PIRACY OR THE HOLDING OF HOSTAGES FOR POLITICAL GAIN FRAUGHT AS THEY ARE WITH RISK TO INNOCENT HUMAN LIVES. IT IS THE EARNEST HOPE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA THAT THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY PARTICULARLY THE NON-ALIGNED WILL MAKE ISRAEL CONFORM TO THE NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL GOOD BEHAVIOUR. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: NORMAL POLICY IS THAT DEPUTY MINISTER ISSUES GSL PRONOUNCEMENTS ON FOREIGN POLICY AS PM'S SPOKESMAN (PM IS ALSO MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS). IT IS UNUYAAL FOR THE PRIMIE MINISTER TO SPEAK OUT IN A FORMAL STATEMENT, AFTER MDFA ANNOUNCEMENT. HER STATEMENT APPEARS TO REVERSE EMPHASIS OF JAYAKODY'S, WHICH LED OFF WITH CRITIKNSM OF HIJACKING. THE PM INSTEAD LEFT HER CONDEMNATION OF AIR PIRACY TO THE THIRD PARAGRAPH AND ENDED WITH HOPE THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE MADE TO CONFORM TO "NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL GOOD BEHAVIOUR." HER ISSUANCE OF A PERSONAL STATEMENT IS INDICATIVE OF HER STRONG FEELINGS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND HER COMMITMENT TO THE ARAB POINT OF VIEW, AS EVIDENCED BY HER REFERENCE TO THE EARLY ACTION OF HER CURRENT ADMINISTRATION IN BREAKING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. SHE IS ALSO OBVIOUSLY THINKING OF HER IMAGE IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT ON THE EVE OF NEXT MONTH'S COLOMBO SUMMIT.

REED

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, RESCUE OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976COLOMB02440  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760264-0699  
**From:** COLOMBO  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 COLOMBO 2411  
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**Review Date:** 22 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON ISRAELI ATTACK ON ENTEBBE AIRPORT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CE, IS, (BANDARANAIKE, SIRIMAVO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006